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Hon. Thomas L. Wells
Minister of Education

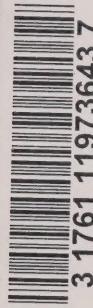
Government
Publications

[General publications]

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Ontario Elementary and Secondary School Enrolment Projections 1974-1983

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ONTARIO ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL ENROLMENT PROJECTIONS
1974 TO 1983

Introduction

In September, 1973 the Planning and Research Branch of the Ministry of Education prepared a set of enrolment projections for elementary schools and secondary schools which covered a period of ten years from 1973 to 1982. Because enrolment projections are important considerations for management decisions, the projections prepared by the Ministry were subsequently published and distributed to educational officials, and on request, to other individuals and groups. The availability of more recent data, especially the actual enrolment for 1973, and the developments observed since the preparation of the projections have made it possible now to evaluate the validity of the assumptions used in that forecast. This has resulted in a revised set of projections for a period of ten years from 1974 to 1983.

Actual Enrolment and Projected Enrolment, 1973.

Evaluation

The provincial total for students enrolled in elementary schools in September, 1973 was 1,422,885. The projected enrolment for the year was 1,436,209. Although the projection was over-estimated by 13,324 students, the margin of error was quite within acceptable limits at 0.9 per cent.

Public school enrolment decreased from 1,022,935 in 1972 to 998,668 in September, 1973, a decrease of 24,267 or 2.4 per cent. The projection was 1,008,523, a difference of about 1 per cent.

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Enrolment in Roman Catholic separate schools increased to 424,217 in 1973 from 422,166 in 1972 - an increase of 2,051 or 0.5 per cent. The projected enrolment of 427,686 was above the actual enrolment by 3,469 or 0.8 per cent.

Table 1 shows the actual and projected elementary school enrolments by grade or year for September, 1973. Analysis shows that variations in the actual enrolment pattern from the projections have occurred mainly in the junior kindergarten and Special Education classes.

In September, 1973 there were 585,725 students enrolled in the secondary schools. The projected enrolment was 596,548, an overestimate by 1.8 per cent. The percentage of error varies from 0.2 per cent for grade 9 or year 1 to 4.8 per cent for grade 13 or year 5. Table 1 shows the actual and projected secondary school enrolments by grade or year for 1973.

Revised Projections, 1974 to 1983.

The current projections are basically an update of those issued in September, 1973. Revisions have been made in junior kindergarten and grades 9 and 10 (of Roman Catholic separate schools). Special Education has been combined with grade enrolments.

Table 2 on page 8 is a projection of all enrolment in elementary and secondary schools by grade and/or year. Table 3 on page 9 shows the projection of enrolment in public elementary schools, and Table 4 on page 10 is a projection of enrolment in Roman Catholic separate schools. Enrolment projections for the secondary schools, as shown in Table 2, have also been revised to reflect the reduced rates of annual increase observed in the last few years.

Assumptions

The continuing decline in elementary school enrolment from year to year, felt acutely in the beginning grades, is due mainly to the decreased number of live births since 1960. The number of live births decreased from 159,245, or a birth rate of 26.1 per thousand population in 1960, to a low of 126,257 or a rate of 17.3 per thousand population in 1968. There were signs of recovery in 1969 and in 1970, when reported live births were 130,398 and 134,724 respectively. However, the number of live births and the birth rates have been on the decline since 1971. In 1973, the number of live births registered was 125,601 (preliminary) and the birth rate declined further to 15.8 per thousand population.

The fact that the decline in the numbers and rates of live births persists, despite increases in the number of women of child-bearing ages and a continuing increase in the number of marriages from year to year, adds another dimension to the enrolment picture of the future. It is expected that the elementary school enrolment will continue to decline, accounting for a further reduction of approximately 126,000 students by the year 1983.

There were 25,596 immigrants under 18 years of age who were reported to have arrived in Ontario in 1973. However, a good number of them had in fact already been in the country for some time and acquired their legal immigrant status during the year. In other words, the unusually large number of arrivals is not a reversed trend towards more admissions to Canada and Ontario. It is expected that in future years the immigrant arrivals will be based on available job opportunities and therefore are likely to be much fewer than in the 1960s.

An analysis was done of junior kindergarten enrolment within each county from 1971 to 1973. The single age distribution from the 1971 census, uncorrected for deaths and migration, has been used to yield an accrued increase to the kindergarten enrolments for each board within each region. To allow for the rapid expansion which has characterized junior kindergarten enrolment in the central region, a special factor for growth has been applied to that region alone.

Enrolments in grades 9 and 10 in the Roman Catholic separate schools have been revised in order to reflect the pattern that seems to be emerging from the actual enrolment observed in 1973. There is a trend towards all grade 9 students returning for grade 10 in Roman Catholic separate schools.

It is assumed that the political, economic, and social conditions prevailing at present will not show marked changes over the period covered by the projection. In addition, no further change is assumed in government policy regarding private schools, compulsory school age, and the elementary and secondary education program in general.

Methodology

Grade 1 enrolment projections are based on observed relationships between grade 1 enrolment and the number of live births in Ontario six years earlier. These have been described in detail in a previous publication¹ on enrolment projections. In short, revisions have been made in enrolment forecasts for junior kindergarten and grades 9 and 10. Special Education enrolment has been integrated with enrolments for grades 4 to 8 inclusive. Otherwise, the elementary forecast is similar to that published in 1973.

Secondary

The secondary school enrolments are projected by using the grade survival method reported in the publication² issued last year. The secondary enrolments and their grade components were examined for an eight-year period from September, 1966 to September, 1973 inclusive. During this period the net yearly increase has fallen from 37,071 students between 1967 and 1968 to a low of 2,712 between 1972 and 1973.

This decline in growth is contrary to the expected effect of high admissions arising from increases in the number of live births through the fifties and until 1960, and high migration rates from other provinces and from other countries. These demographic factors have been overshadowed by an increase in the number of retirements of senior students from secondary schools in recent years. Secondary education is also faced with a declining number of admissions chiefly because of the decrease in the number of live births since 1960. Reduction in secondary enrolment appears inevitable.

Conclusions

In September, 1973 there were 1,422,885 students enrolled in the elementary schools of Ontario. By 1983 it is expected that this enrolment will not account for more than 1,296,342. The enrolment in the secondary schools in 1973 was 585,725. A peak in enrolment is expected in 1975, three years earlier than had been previously anticipated, reaching a high of 586,495 in 1975.

Thereafter, a decline that begins in 1976 will bring the secondary school enrolment to 479,507 by 1983. However, since the secondary school enrolment is expected to reach a plateau beginning in 1974, even a slight error within an acceptable limit of one per cent could hasten or delay the turning point in enrolment.

¹Ontario Elementary and Secondary School Enrolment Projections, 1973 - 1982, Ministry of Education.

²Ibid

TABLE 1
ACTUAL¹ AND PROJECTED² SCHOOL ENROLMENT, SEPTEMBER, 1973

ELEMENTARY:

<u>Grade or Year</u>	<u>PUBLIC</u>		<u>R. C. SEPARATE</u>		<u>TOTAL ELEMENTARY</u>	
	<u>Actual¹</u>	<u>Projected²</u>	<u>Actual¹</u>	<u>Projected²</u>	<u>Actual¹</u>	<u>Projected²</u>
Junior kindergarten	22,467	28,687	15,571	23,472	38,038	52,159
Kindergarten	89,974	90,905	34,055	34,089	124,029	124,994
1	97,929	99,839	37,534	37,233	135,463	137,072
2	98,482	99,824	39,397	38,690	137,879	138,514
3	104,876	105,503	42,608	41,903	147,484	147,406
4	111,578	111,556	45,039	44,558	156,617	156,114
5	112,180	112,654	44,932	44,222	157,112	156,876
6	112,161	112,333	45,089	44,764	157,250	157,097
7	112,962	113,134	45,488	45,192	158,450	158,326
8	109,819	110,457	43,956	43,755	153,775	154,212
9	2	-	13,146	11,870	13,148	11,870
10	-	-	11,215	10,764	11,215	10,764
Special Education	26,238	23,631	6,187	7,174	32,425	30,805
Total	998,668	1,008,523	424,217	427,686	1,422,885	1,436,209
 SECONDARY:						
<u>Year</u>	<u>Actual¹</u>	<u>Projected²</u>				
1	165,235	164,885				
2	143,939	148,424				
3	126,596	128,523				
4	99,854	102,185				
5	50,101	52,531				
Total	585,725	596,548				

¹ Education Statistics - Ontario, 1973. Ministry of Education.

² Ontario Elementary and Secondary School Enrolment Projections, 1973-1982, Ministry of Education.

TABLE 2

ONTARIO ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL ENROLMENT¹ BY GRADE OR YEAR, SEPTEMBER 1973
AND PROJECTIONS, SEPTEMBER 1974 TO SEPTEMBER 1983

Grade	(Actual) 1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
ELEMENTARY											
Junior Kindergarten	38,038	42,710	45,931	48,433	52,836	55,037	55,918	56,358	56,798	57,238	57,680
Kindergarten	124,029	129,094	133,377	129,091	123,750	123,750	123,750	123,750	123,750	123,750	123,750
Grade 1	135,463	135,095	139,526	144,155	139,523	133,750	133,750	133,750	133,750	133,750	133,750
" 2	137,879	133,756	132,212	136,757	141,438	137,033	131,497	131,764	131,831	131,798	131,798
" 3	147,484	136,590	132,070	130,719	135,215	139,893	135,537	129,973	130,017	130,061	130,105
" 4	156,617	145,841	134,942	130,546	129,240	133,707	138,300	133,949	128,465	128,523	128,566
" 5	157,112	155,514	145,170	134,217	129,779	128,416	132,786	137,312	132,992	127,546	127,603
" 6	157,250	156,531	155,143	144,845	134,035	129,576	128,206	132,609	137,160	132,866	127,425
" 7	158,450	157,340	156,614	155,346	145,044	134,231	129,801	128,461	132,871	137,434	132,601
" 8	153,775	154,227	153,379	152,894	151,642	141,595	130,998	126,678	125,367	129,669	134,122
GRADES 1 - 8	1,204,030	1,174,894	1,149,056	1,129,479	1,105,916	1,078,201	1,060,875	1,054,362	1,052,386	1,045,680	1,045,970
JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 8	1,366,097	1,346,698	1,328,364	1,307,003	1,282,502	1,256,988	1,240,543	1,234,470	1,232,934	1,232,668	1,227,400
Grade 9 (Elem.)	13,148	14,487	14,651	15,242	15,291	15,398	14,555	13,387	12,844	12,644	13,055
Grade 10 (Elem.)	11,215	12,962	14,487	14,651	15,242	15,291	15,398	14,555	13,387	12,844	12,644
Special Education	32,425	34,023	33,059	34,136	35,349	36,649	38,110	39,699	41,247	42,743	43,243
TOTAL, GRADES 1 - 8 PLUS SPECIAL EDUCATION	1,236,455	1,208,917	1,182,115	1,163,615	1,141,265	1,114,850	1,098,985	1,094,061	1,093,633	1,094,423	1,089,213
TOTAL, ELEMENTARY	1,422,885	1,408,170	1,390,561	1,371,032	1,348,384	1,324,326	1,308,606	1,302,111	1,300,412	1,300,899	1,296,342
SECONDARY											
Year 1	165,235	165,403	165,859	164,148	163,479	161,772	149,765	137,513	132,606	131,166	136,195
" 2	143,939	144,53	144,560	144,944	143,363	142,766	141,244	130,726	120,029	115,753	114,503
" 3	126,596	127,732	128,454	128,280	128,621	127,218	126,688	125,337	116,004	106,512	102,718
" 4	99,854	98,745	98,737	98,910	98,776	98,974	97,894	97,486	96,446	89,264	81,960
" 5	50,101	49,428	48,885	48,881	48,900	48,834	48,932	48,398	48,196	47,682	44,131
TOTAL, SECONDARY	585,725	586,061	586,495	585,163	583,139	579,564	564,523	539,460	513,281	490,377	479,507
GRAND TOTAL	2,008,610	1,994,231	1,977,056	1,956,195	1,931,523	1,903,890	1,873,129	1,841,571	1,813,693	1,791,276	1,775,849

¹Publicly-Supported Elementary and Secondary Schools.

TABLE 3

PUBLIC SCHOOL ENROLMENT BY GRADE OR YEAR, SEPTEMBER 1973
AND PROJECTIONS, SEPTEMBER 1974 TO SEPTEMBER 1983

Grade	(Actual) 1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN	22,467	24,560	25,721	26,396	28,162	28,784	28,966	29,137	29,365	29,592	29,821
KINDERGARTEN	89,974	93,887	97,001	93,884	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000
Grade 1	97,929	98,480	101,711	105,085	101,708	97,500	97,500	97,500	97,500	97,500	97,500
" 2	98,482	96,616	95,689	99,037	102,466	99,313	95,338	95,471	95,605	95,672	95,672
" 3	104,876	97,995	95,062	94,244	97,545	100,973	97,867	93,862	93,906	93,950	94,016
" 4	111,578	104,194	96,640	93,794	93,068	96,350	99,703	96,592	92,653	92,711	92,754
" 5	112,180	111,057	103,617	96,002	93,110	92,326	95,513	98,819	95,720	91,816	91,873
" 6	112,161	112,381	110,724	103,304	95,835	92,925	92,128	95,349	98,684	95,606	91,707
" 7	112,962	112,656	112,559	111,020	103,614	96,114	93,234	92,457	95,694	99,043	95,954
" 8	109,819	110,273	109,831	109,882	108,390	101,164	93,811	90,999	90,246	93,405	96,674
GRADE 1-8	859,987	843,652	825,833	812,368	795,736	776,665	765,094	761,049	760,008	759,703	756,150
JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN	972,428	962,099	948,555	932,648	913,898	895,449	884,060	880,186	879,373	879,295	875,971
TO GRADE 8	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grade 9 (Elem.)	26,238	27,225	26,133	26,967	27,800	28,586	29,535	30,568	31,760	32,912	33,297
Special Education											
TOTAL, GRADES 1-8 PLUS	886,225	870,877	851,966	839,335	823,536	805,251	794,629	791,617	791,768	792,615	789,447
SPECIAL EDUCATION	998,668	989,324	974,688	959,615	941,698	924,035	913,595	910,754	911,133	912,207	909,268
TOTAL, PUBLIC											

PLANNING AND RESEARCH BRANCH
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, ONTARIO
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TABLE 4

ROMAN CATHOLIC SEPARATE SCHOOL ENROLMENT BY GRADE OR YEAR, SEPTEMBER 1973
AND PROJECTIONS, SEPTEMBER 1974 TO SEPTEMBER 1983

Grade	(Actual) 1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
Junior Kindergarten	15,571	18,150	20,210	22,037	24,674	26,253	26,952	27,221	27,433	27,646	27,859
Kindergarten	34,055	35,207	36,376	35,207	33,750	33,750	33,750	33,750	33,750	33,750	33,750
Grade 1	37,534	36,615	37,815	39,070	37,815	36,250	36,250	36,250	36,250	36,250	36,250
" 2	39,397	37,140	36,523	37,720	38,972	37,720	36,159	36,159	36,159	36,159	36,159
" 3	42,608	38,595	37,008	36,475	37,670	38,920	37,670	36,111	36,111	36,111	36,089
" 4	45,039	41,647	38,302	36,752	36,172	37,357	38,597	37,357	35,812	35,812	35,812
" 5	44,457	41,553	38,215	36,669	36,090	37,273	38,493	37,272	35,730	35,730	35,730
" 6	45,089	44,150	44,419	41,541	38,200	36,651	36,078	37,260	38,476	37,260	35,718
" 7	45,488	44,684	44,055	44,326	41,430	38,117	36,567	36,004	37,177	38,391	36,647
" 8	43,956	43,954	43,548	43,012	43,252	40,431	37,187	35,679	35,121	36,264	37,448
GRADES 1-8	344,043	331,242	323,223	317,111	310,180	301,536	295,781	293,313	292,378	291,977	289,820
JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 8	393,669	384,599	379,809	374,355	368,604	361,539	356,483	354,284	353,561	353,373	351,429
Grade 9 (Elem.)	13,146	14,487	14,651	15,242	15,291	15,398	14,555	13,387	12,844	12,644	13,055
Grade 10 (Elem.)	11,215	12,962	14,487	14,651	15,242	15,291	15,398	14,555	13,387	12,844	12,644
Special Education	6,187	6,798	6,929	7,169	7,549	8,063	8,575	9,131	9,487	9,831	9,946
TOTAL, GRADES 1-8 PLUS SPECIAL EDUCATION	350,230	338,040	330,152	324,280	317,729	309,599	304,356	302,444	301,865	301,808	299,766
TOTAL, ROMAN CATHOLIC	424,217	418,846	415,876	411,417	406,686	400,291	395,011	391,357	389,279	388,692	387,074

